

CLAIMS:

1. A method for operating the keyboard of a digital computer or other electric device by touching the keys with a fingertip of an operator, which keys identify numerals, letters and other values to be entered digitally into the computer
5 and processed therein; said method comprising the steps of:

- A. mounting a responder on the operator's finger;
- B. determining by transmitter-receiver means associated with the computer and cooperating with the responder the exact position of the key on the keyboard that is touched by the fingertip of the operator to produce a
10 signal indicative thereof; and
- C. applying the signal to a data storage associated with the computer in which is digitally stored a table listing the location of each key and the binary code related thereto, the signal scanning the table to select therefrom the key whose location matches the location indicated by the
15 signal, whereby the binary code related to the selected key is then generated.

2. A method as set forth in Claim 1 in which the responder is placed in a thimble into which the fingertip is insertable.

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3. An arrangement for operating a passive keyboard of a digital computer or other electric device by touching its keys with a finger, the keys identifying numerals, letters and other values to be entered into the computer for processing therein, said arrangement comprising:

- 25 A. a responder mounted on said finger;
- B. a transmitter-receiver assembly associated with the computer and cooperating with said responder to produce a signal indicative of the location of the key touched by the finger on which the responder is mounted;

- C. a data storage included in the computer having digitally stored therein a scanable list of the respective locations of the keys of the keyboard and the binary code related to each key;
- D. and the computer configured to apply said signal to said data storage to effect a scanning action to select from the table the key whose location matches the location indicated by the signal whereby the binary code for that key is then entered into the computer.
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4. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 3 in which the keyboard has a planar surface on which is impressed an array of said keys.
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5. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 3 in which the responder is placed within a thimble into which is insertable the tip of the finger.
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6. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 4 in which the face of each key has a relatively small area, which is sufficient to encompass the tip of the finger.
7. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 6 in which the faces of the keys are closely adjacent each other.
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8. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 1 in which a primary signal transmitted by the transmitter is intercepted by the responder and in response thereto, the responder transmits a secondary signal which is intercepted by the receiver.
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9. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 8 in which the exact position of the responder is determined in terms of Cartesian X-Y-Z coordinates.
10. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 8 in which the exact position of the responder is determined in terms of spherical coordinates.

11. An arrangement as set forth in Claim 8 in which the exact position of the responder is determined in terms of cylindrical coordinates.

12. A method by which an individual having a movable member can operate a
5 keyboard whose keys have indicia identifying respective actions that can be taken by an electronic device activated by the keyboard, said method comprising the steps of:

A. mounting a responder on the operator's member;

10 B. determining by transmitter-receiver means associated with the electronic device and cooperating with the responder the exact position of the key on the keyboard that is touched by the member of the operator to produce a signal indicative thereof; and

15 C. applying the signal to a data storage associated with the electronic device in which is digitally stored a table listing the location of each key and the action related thereto, the signal scanning the table to select therefrom the key whose location matches the location indicated by the signal, whereby the action related to the selected key is then initiated.

20 13. A method for operating a digital computer by creating a movement pattern indicative of symbols to be entered digitally into the computer and processed therein by an operator having at least one movable member; said method comprising the steps of:

A. mounting a responder on said member;

25 B. moving said member and thereby generating a signal indicative of said movement pattern by the responder;

C. feeding the signal produced by the responder into the computer;

D. processing the data produced by the responder by a recognition module capable of identifying said symbols.

14. A method as set forth in Claim 13 in which the movable member is a fingertip and the responder is placed in a thimble into which the fingertip is insertable.

5 15. A method as set forth in Claim 13 in which the movable member is a toe.